

BYTE BANDITS
OF AMERICA

MAY

1988

IN RETROSPECT:

As we continue our quest thru the Super Computers era; we should look back at our past to observe our real gains. First, we learned to manage stacks of computer punch cards; then onward to piles of floppy disks, now it's virtual memory and desktop programs. Next, we will be asked to properly manage our memory - Unix has been doing this for many years - what's next? C.P.M.? TRSDOS? It sounds like someone is saying "Hey"! Learn to program efficiently." Maybe the end result will be neatly programmed 16K Programs someday.

PRINTERS - 24 PIN:

"BYTE" Magazine has an article in its April '88 Issue comparing 37 different dot matrix printers (24 pins) from \$400 to \$2000. The article shows the many qualities and useful characteristics of each printer.

They all were compared and tested using special applications; some had one major defect. "Would not complete tests due to software incompatibility." I will list them so you will know their manufacturer's names:

Epson	MODEL	LQ500-850
NEC		P2200
Seikosha		SL 80A1
Panasonic		KX P1524
Okidata Microline		393
Mannesmaan Tally		MT 330
Citizen Trubute		224

Since information on Printers is limited, you may be cautious about buying one of these printers if you're shopping for a printer. Out of 37 Models, these couldn't complete the software tests. They may not run with your softwares either. Shop carefully before you buy. If you wish to read the printer article come to the meeting, or buy the "BYTE" magazine.

ARRIBA:

Boy, the names they use to identify a program with. "Arriba" is a MS-DOS disk-hard disk management program. We obtained it for our new computer users. This program puts the whole computer on automatic key commands: file transfers, disk copy, DOS commands, and storage, are done without prior computer knowledge. With this program helping you, we know you won't get lost in the MS-DOS world. You also won't destroy your programs, etc. while learning to conquer your machine. We think you will like it; We know it will be a practical club tool. See the program at the next meeting.

MODEL 4P PROBLEM

By the way, if you have a Model 4P and its screen glitches (periodic or sometimes continuous swelling or shrinking) when nothing is operating, then it may be that the power supply is missing a resistor. I

found this out by accident when I was trying to figure out what was going on with mine, and noticed in a photo in the January 1986 issue of 80 Micro (page 46) that there was a resistor on the printed-circuit side of the power supply board. There wasn't one on mine. A quick check with some Tandy insiders proved that the resistor should be there. I installed a 4700 pF resistor with 5% tolerance (a rather small resistor with yellow / purple / red / gold color bands), and the problem disappeared. A 4600 pF resistor (yellow / blue / red / gold) will also work. By the way, if you're thinking of installing the surge protector shown in that issue while you're at it, refer to the June 1986 issue (page 27) for better placement of the three metal oxide varistors (MOVs). They are disk-like jobbers with a coating of black plastic on them, and they cost about \$1.69 apiece. Look for the ones with 20K20IU printed on them. They're available at Radio Shack.

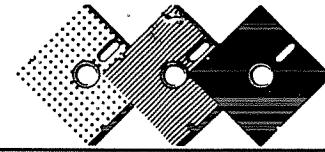
For B. S. Portland, OR

I used all of my limited back-up on pfs:file and was using my Master when I purchased a program disk from 80 Micro Magazine called "UNPUBLISHED GEMS - MODEL 4". On the disk is a program called "Backup4/cmd". This program has copied all of my "limited backup" disks nicely. It will also copy pfs:file and pfs:report backups.

-H. H. North Las Vegas, NV

For those of you languishing with Profile 4 Plus, there are two items that I would like to bring to your attention. 1. Radio Shack published a patch 1635-01 April 11, 1985 to correct an error, but the patch itself contains an error. The error made the printer on reports stop after about 100 lines. I brought the problem to Small Computer (now located in Hawthorne NY) and they figured out a correction to the error. Change patch line 7 of the RS version of the patch EFCA/CMD from (X'61F3'=CD 40 6F) to (X'61F3'=C3 40 6F)

THE 80 MICRO



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DESKMATE P.C.:

Tandy will open up the interface of its "Deskmate" Desktop all-in-one utility package to other software publishers for use as a low end operating environment. The 1984 Deskmate program has been installed in more than one million machines. It was converted to offer graphics last year. Although it won't perform multitasking, it can transfer data to another computer using Deskmate too. You can order "Deskmate" from your friendly Computer Center (Radio Shack, of course).

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

A quick listing of important Phone Numbers that you may need for software-hardware support is as follows:

For numbers to call when having trouble:

LDOS® call Misosys Inc. (703) 450-4181

LSDOS® call Logical Systems Inc. (303)
243-7070

TRSDOS® call Tandy, Fort Worth

For TRSDOS Group (817) 338-2392

For Hardware Group (817) 338-2394

Program converts TRS-80 into oscilloscope

John V Kane

J V Kane and Co. Wynnewood, PA

If you use the TRS-80 input intended for cassette data as a signal input, the program shown in the

figure lets the computer act as an oscilloscope.

Because the oscilloscope thus created is programmable and has memory, you can easily perform tasks that might prove to be difficult with an ordinary scope. Completely relocatable, the program runs anywhere above 4400₁₆. In Level 1, T-bar provides entry and control—use J 4400.

EDN

06	FF	LD B 1FF
49		LD C B
05	FF	LD B 1FF
10	FE	DJNZ HERE
41		LDS C
10	FE	DJNZ BACK6
1F		XOR AA
06	FF	OUT FF
06	FF	LD B 1FF
10	FE	DJNZ HERE
DB	FF	1, FF

3C	NC	A
28	04	JP Z 094
3E	00	LD A 00-F
18	00	JP LP F
3E	01	LD A 1CHR
D7		RST VIDEO
CD	4	CB CLKSC
28	05	JP Z START
FE	00	CP 0CHR
28	0A	JP Z START
C3	01	40 JP TBS

Using the cassette data input as a signal input, you can utilize a simple routine to convert a Level 1 TRS-80 into an oscilloscope.



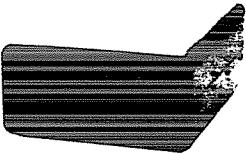
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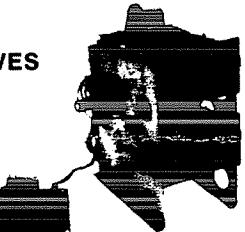
40 Meg \$799

Add \$20 shipping. White case standard. Add \$30 for stainless. One year parts and labor warranty.

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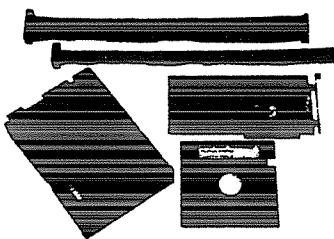
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LOW COST HARD DRIVES

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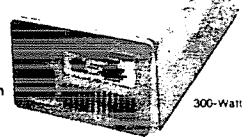
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workmanship. Your satisfaction is guaranteed on hardware products. If you are not satisfied, for any reason, call us within 30 days of receipt and we will cheerfully refund your money (less shipping). All original materials must be intact and undamaged, as well as the original shipping container. This offer does not apply to software. Defective software will be replaced. No other software warranty applies. Prices and specifications are subject to change without notice. Any returns must have our RMA number on the label to be accepted.

THE \$25.00 NETWORK:

With 3 MS-DOS computers of the same type within 8 feet of each other, we should be able to tie them together electronically, and have them share their own disk storage, program functions, etc. without costing the price of a L.A.N. system. Plus that, we have many talented resources to assist us in this project.

We found a program that will serve our desires, we think. It's cheap and allows us to have all three machines share their storage with each other without bothering the programs on the computers. The cost is \$25.00. The name of the program is "THE \$25.00 NETWORK". You can see it happen at the club meetings. This program is not for the everyday computerist; but it is simple to set up and use should you have a couple of MS-DOS machines laying around the house. I.T.R. Inc. Tp: 305/682-6121.

TRS-80 SUPPLIES:

Where is a good place to buy new Model 1,3 or 4 supplies these days? Well, not too much is around anymore. "Aerocomp" has always been a parts supplier for our machines and they still offer parts and supplies, etc. for our machines.

Should you need a complete DOS and manuals, or should you desire to increase your disk storage, or just buy a hard disk for your Model 1, 3, or 4 computers. Do you need disk drive cables, or would you wish to change from tape to floppy disks? You know we cannot count on our local Radio Shack stores. "Aerocomp" is a very reasonably priced company, and its one of our last major vendor companies. You can call them Tp: 214/638-8886 or look for their ad in 80 Micro magazine.

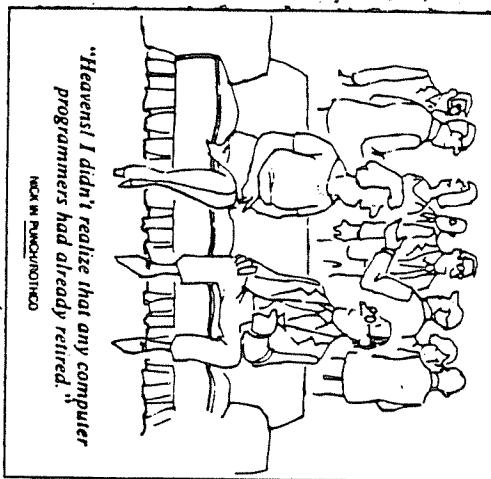
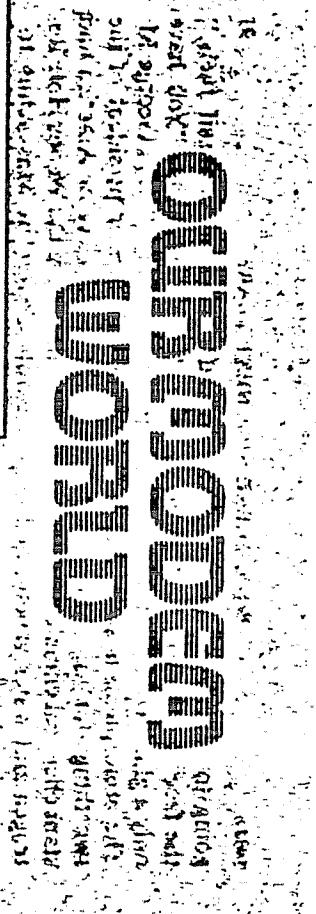
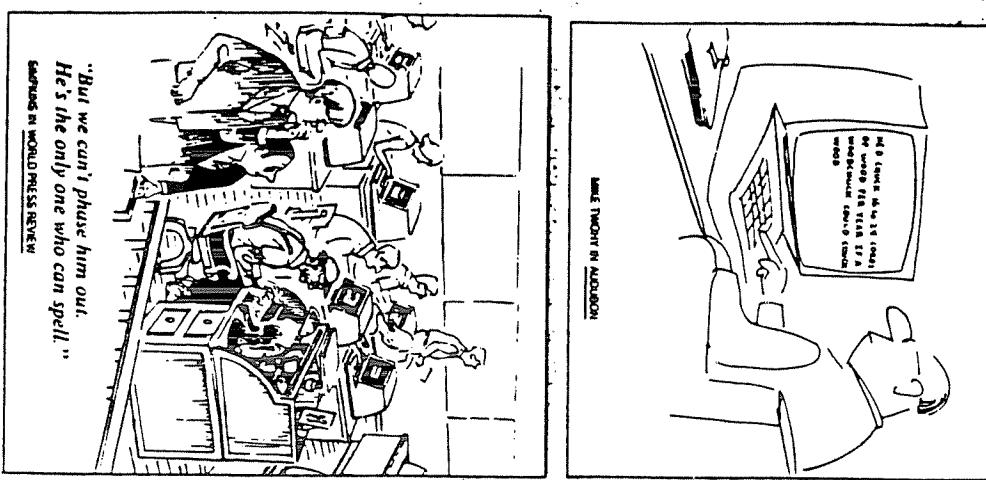
MULTIDOS UPDATE:

Registered owners of MULTIDOS for the Model 1, 3, or 4 computers can now update to Version 2.1. It costs \$19.95 plus \$1.00 for shipping.

Alphabit Communications Inc.
13349 Michigan Ave.
Dearborn, MI. 48126
Tp: 313/551-2896

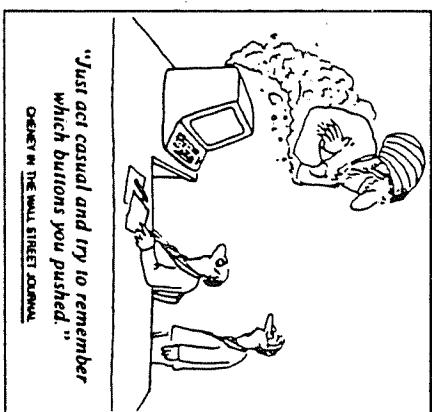
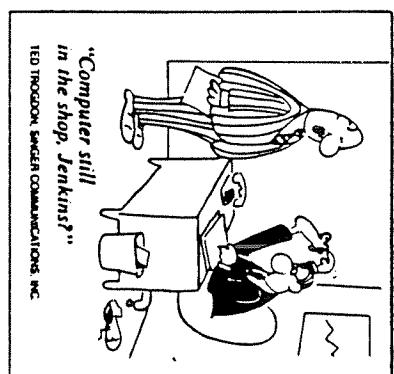
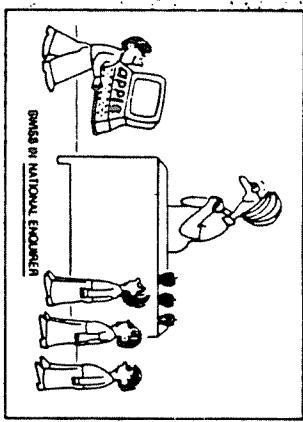
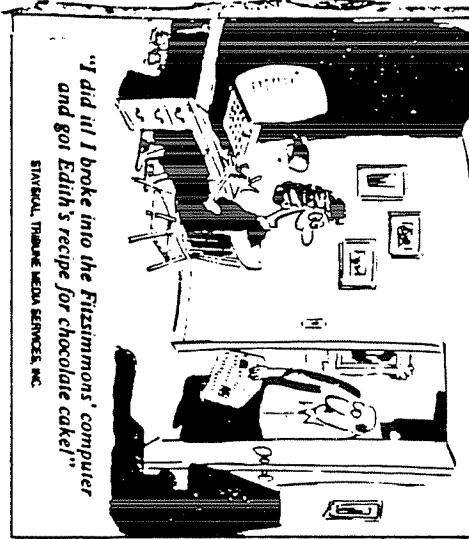
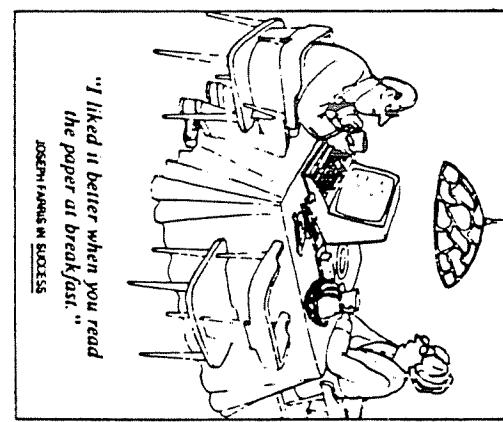
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COMIC BOOK



"I don't know what you guys see
in these computers..."

LOREN IN WORLDSYSTEMS



The 1400 LT weighs only 13.5 lbs, and measures 14.5 by 12 3/8 by 3.5 inches. You'll have a hard time trying to fit the computer into a normal-sized briefcase, though. Nevertheless, there's only one more thing you need to know, and that's if you think you need it, or if you want it. Remember, the choice is yours, now that you know more about the 1400 LT.

And now that they have the perfect portable - they are going to drop it from their product line. Oh well, they will be a fantastic buy when it happens. The 1400 LT Portable is fully supported by NEC (the other portable).

LDOS 5.3 is an upgrade to LDOS 5.1.4. If you have LDOS 5.1.3; don't sweat it. The LDOS 5.3 upgrade is not a series of patches, but is in fact a totally new disk containing a complete operating system and utilities. With it, the dating range has been extended from January 1, 1980 to December 31, 1999. Another great feature is time stamps. They may seem a bother to most, but already it has saved me a lot of work by allowing me to quickly find the very LATEST version of a program I had been working on. If you don't like the time prompt during each reboot, simply enter SYSTEM (TIME=N) at the DOS prompt. From there on files will be stamped with 'relative' time.

REINFORCEMENTS:

This month the Club was very busy retrieving old TRS-80 magazines (1979-1985) issues. We also obtained a few boxes of parts from Bob Wheeler (a Model 1 repair person). We also obtained a lot of Model 3 Programs from the Radio Shack store on Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and Prospect Ave. These goodies resulted from a well-spent \$50.00. We will pass the parts on to our own TRS-80 service people and the books we will give away. We treasure the books because they contain the Tandy History as it grew. We keep a full index of "80 Micro" (1979-1988) at the Club, so should you wish to read them, just check them out when you're at the meetings.

80 MICRO CLOSES ITS DOORS

ITS OFFICIAL
THE LAST ISSUE IS JUNE 1988
AND IS NOW IN THE PRINTERS HANDS
THE PUBLICATION CEASED TO EXIST
AS OF MONDAY APRIL 11

WEATHER OR NOT - MS-DOS COMPUTERS:

Sort of bored with a "your-guess-is-as-good-as-mine" type weather forecaster? Why not try the Accu-Weather Forecaster? You choose from either weather reports from the whole U.S. or a specific state or geographic region. There's a multitude of formats to choose from, including graphs, charts, pictures, maps, and text. Interested? The Accu-Weather forecaster costs \$89.95. Contact Metacomet Software for more information, at P.O. Box 31337, Hartford, CT. 06103, Tp:203/223-5911.

THE TANDY 1400 LT:

Tandy had just come up with the 1400 LT, its first MS-DOS computer "to go". If you already planned on buying - great! But... have you heard all the facts, good and BAD?

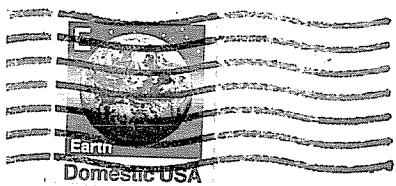
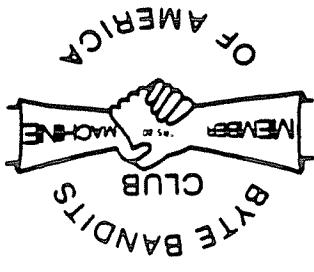
The 1400 LT's NEC V20 processor, running at 7.16 Mhz, is fully compatible with the Tandy 1000's Intel 8088. With the LT's enforced speed, the 1400 is as fast as the Tandy 1000 SX and 3.4 times faster than an IBM PC/XT. But even as it's not as fast as the NEC V30-equipped NEC Multispeed EL, it costs \$900.00 less! What about memory, you may ask? The LT comes standard with 768K of CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor) RAM. DOS accesses 640K and the remaining 128K is available as a RAM disk. Unfortunately, however, when you turn off the system, you also lose all the contents of RAM.

A RAM disk is an area of memory which the computer thinks is a disk drive. The LT's physical disk drives are designated A & B. The RAM drive is a drive C. Storing information is no different than any other disk drive, except when retrieving information it will have memory speed, not the speed of a disk drive. Eventually, you'll find it faster, as well as more reasonable to use this system of storage.

The disk drives are two 3 1/2 inch 720K which are located at the base of the computer's display and above the keyboard. The drives are incredibly quiet and small LED's indicate when they're active. Access time is terribly slow, but if used correctly, the speed of the 128K RAM disk will compensate for it.

The keyboard of the LT isn't cramped and small like most laptops. In fact, its layout is quite identical to the IBM PC. Tandy even found room for the twelve function keys. Indicator lights on the keyboard show when the caps lock, num lock, and scroll lock keys are invoked. The LT even has small slots above the functions for templates.

The LT operates on power from a 12 Volt, 2200 ma. battery pack composed of 10 C-size Nicad batteries bundled together in a plastic pack. A low battery indicator LED warns you when you need to replace, or recharge, the batteries.



BYTE Bandits of Amer.
TRS-80, + Computer Club
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Cupertino, CA 95006

